

8. (Amended) An apparatus for stabilizing an epicardial surface of the heart comprising:

an arm;

a foot coupled to the arm, the foot having a contact surface for engaging the heart, and a slot in which a vessel on the heart may be positioned, the slot defining an axis, wherein the foot is attached to the arm at a location offset from the axis, said foot having a lateral side; and

said arm is attached to the foot along the lateral side.

9. (Amended) An apparatus for stabilizing an epicardial surface of the heart comprising:

an arm; and

a foot having a contact surface for engaging the epicardial surface; and a coupling for detachably connecting the foot to the arm.

11. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the foot has a connector which detachably engages the arm.

13. (Amended) An apparatus for stabilizing an epicardial surface of the heart comprising:

an arm;

a foot including a bottom surface having a contact surface for engaging the heart, a slot in which a vessel on the heart may be positioned, wherein at least a portion of the bottom surface is convex; and

the foot is generally convex when viewed along a central axis defined by the slot.

14. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein:

the bottom surface has lateral surfaces which taper away from the contact surface.

Please add new claims 49-54 as follows:

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49. (New) An apparatus for stabilizing an epicardial surface of the heart, comprising:
a foot having a first arm and a second arm, each of said first and second arms having a proximal end and a distal end, said first and second arms each attached to said foot at their respective proximal ends;

said first and second arms each having at least one contact surface for engaging the heart;

a space between said first and second arms, said space defining a slot, said slot defining a long axis of said foot;

said first and second arms each having a lateral surface attached thereto, said lateral surface tapering away from said contact surface to be generally convex when viewed along said axis of said slot.

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50. 13 11 (New) The apparatus according to claim 49, further comprising a length defined between the proximal ends of said first and second arms and the distal ends of said first and second arms, said length of the first arm being longer than the length of said second arm.

51. 14 12 (New) The apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the length of said first arm is at least 30% longer than said second arm.

52. 15 13 (New) An apparatus for stabilizing an epicardial surface of the heart, comprising:
a foot having a first arm, said first arm having a proximal end and a distal end, and a second arm, said second arm having a proximal end and a distal end, said first and second arms each attached to said foot at their respective proximal ends;

said first and second arms each having at least one contact surface for engaging the heart;

a space between said first and second arms, said space defining a slot, said slot defining a long axis of said foot;

a connector for detachably engaging a positioning apparatus of the stabilizer, said connector located along a lateral side of said foot, and forming an axis which makes an angle with said long axis of said foot.